

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07730 181323Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-01 IO-10 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OPR-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 (ISO) W

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R 181215Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE, SY, EG

SUBJECT: KHADDAM LEAVES CONTINUING CABINET CRISIS BEHIND IN LEBANON

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07730 181323Z

REF: BEIRUT 7685

1. SUDDEN UPSURGE OF OPTIMISM ATTENDING KHADDAM'S ARRIVAL HERE TWO DAYS AGO(REFTEL) COLLAPSED LATE JUNE 17 WHEN HE RETURNED TO DAMASCUS, APPARENTLY WITHOUT HAVING RESOLVED ISSUES HINDERING PREMIER-DESIGNATE KARAME'S ATTEMPT TO FORM NEW GOVT. KHADDAM AND SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF SHIHABI PARTICIPATED IN FULL DAY OF CONSULTATIONS WITH LEBANESE POLITICAL FIGURES (FBIS JN171956Y) JUNE 17, BUT NEITHER BEIRUT PRESS NOR KNOWLEDGE-ABLE LOCAL OBSERVERS FEEL THAT SARG "DEUS EX MACHINA" WAS ABLE TO WORK WONDERS THIS TIME IN STRAIGHTENING OUT OBSTINATE LEBANESE POLITICAL PRIMA-DONNAS. KARAME, WHO MUST BY THIS TIME BE FEELING STRAIN OF HIS TREE-WEEK EFFORT, GIVES EVERY INDICATION PUBLICLY OF PERSERVERING FOR MOMENT AT LEAST. MEANWHILE, KAMAL JUMBLATT IS EXPECTED RETURN FROM DAMASCUS THIS EVENING, AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER SYRIANS HAD MORE SUCCESS ON THEIR HOME TURF THAN HERE IN ALTERING PARAMETERS OF CONTINUING CABINET CRISIS.

2. WE NOTE FBIS HAS PRODUCED TEXT OF PRES SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH "AN NAHAR" (FBIS JN171028Y) WHICH WE HAD PLANNED TO SUMMARIZE BY CABLE. AS POINT OF CLARIFICATION RE REFTEL, PARA 2, SADAT DID NOT RPT NOT STATE IN PUBLISHED TEXT THAT SOVIETS AND LIBYANS WAGING WARFARE AGAINST HIM IN LEBANON AND ELSEWHERE, BUT OBVIOUSLY MADE SUCH STATEMENTS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH TUEINI AND ABU JAWDEH. THESE ACCUSATIONS ARE SUMMARIZED IN /CONCLUSIONS" (NOT RPT NOT TRANSLATED BY FBIS) LEBANESE JOURNALISTS DREW FROM THEIR TALKS WITH SADAT, RELEVANT PROTION OF WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: "HE REGARDS HIMSELF TO BE IN STATE OF WAR WITH INTERNATIONAL QUARTERS WHO, HE SAID, ARE FLIGHTING HIM WITH ARAB TOOLS. HE NAMED NAMES, FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO LIBYA. HIS EXPLANATION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON AND OTHER PARTS OF ARAB WORLD IS THAT IT IS ALL PART OF WARFARE BEING WAGED AGAINST HIM. THEREFORE, HE CONSIDERS BATTLE OF LEBANON AS HIS OWN BATTLE AND HE WILL NOT GO EASY ON MATTER."

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD, BUT CANNOT YET CONFIRM, THAT EGYPT HAS DECIDED TO RESUME PRACTICE, APPARENTLY DISCONTINUED SINCE NASSER'S DEATH, OF BUYING PORTION OF BEIRUT MOSLEM "STREET." IF TRUE, THIS MOVE IS UNDOUBLTEDLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE COUNTER-WEIGHT TO SIMILAR ACTIVITIES OF LIBYANS, IRAQIS AND OTHERS.
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 07730 181323Z

SADAT'S REPORTED ASSERTION THAT HE WILL NOT RPT NOT FLINCH FROM STUGGLE IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE LENDS CREDENCE TO SUCH REPORTS.
GODLEY

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